



Dear Member of the National Board of Directors:

I am very pleased to present to you this *National Board of Directors Handbook*. It contains basic information about the ASPIRA Association that I trust will be useful to you in carrying out your duties as a member of the National Board. Among other basic documents we are including copies of the *Articles of Association*, the *Bylaws* of the Association, the *Strategic Plan: 1998-2002*, as well as information on programs and services provided by the National Office and the basic document on the procedure for Board nominations.

The ASPIRA Association National Board of Directors is composed of the chairpersons and one student representative of each ASPIRA Associate, as well as the Chair of the ASPIRA of Connecticut Affiliate. There are also four At-Large members who are elected from the community. A key committee of the Board is the Student Affairs Committee, composed of all student representatives, that advises the Board on all matters pertaining to students. We are very proud that we have such a numerous student representation on the National Board. This is unique among national organizations—even youth organizations—and is one of the strengths of our Association.

One of our main goals in ASPIRA is to further build ASPIRA as a national association, driven by a common purpose, and with a common vision and goals in which we all work together to promote the empowerment of our community through education and leadership development of our youth. This is one of the main roles of the National Board of Directors and the National Office. Each day we move more towards achieving this goal of unity of purpose and action, taking into account the different conditions, needs, strategies and autonomy of each ASPIRA Associate.

The National Office has evolved in its role since the days of ASPIRA of America, almost 20 years ago. Today, the National Office is responsible for serving as a national voice for the organization, for national advocacy and research and for working with other national organizations to achieve common purposes for our community. It is also responsible for developing with the Associates, national programs, such as our Health Careers, Public Policy Leadership Program, APEX and Mathematics and Science Academies. But most importantly, our role is to help develop our organization, providing assistance to the Associates so they can deliver more and better services to our community.



• An Investment in Latino Youth •

ASPIRA Association, Inc.

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS LIST

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***Ms. Raquel Ortiz**
Chair of the Board
(Ortiz Simon Productions)
Video Publishing Group
361 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02115
617-262-8830
617-262-7432 fax

***Ms. Helia M. Alfaro Bou**
Chairperson, ASPIRA, Inc. of
Puerto Rico
Calle Lilas #1679
Urb. San Francisco
Rio Piedras, PR 00927
787-765-2007
787-257-2725 fax

***Ms. Heddy Peña**
Chairperson, ASPIRA of Florida,
Inc.
AT&T
International Public Affairs
Director Central America
2334 Calle de Leon, 9th Floor
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-774-2353
305-774-2356 fax

***Ms. Sonia Sánchez**
Chairperson, ASPIRA, Inc. of
Illinois
Chicago City Council
Service Division
Asst. Sergeant of Arms
121 N. LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60602
312-744-6805
312-744-6824 fax

***Mr. Daniel Agosto**
Chairperson, ASPIRA of New
York, Inc.
Assistant Deputy Comptroller
NYS Office of State Comptroller
Alfred E. Smith State Office
Building, 8th floor
Albany, NY 12236
518-486-1250
518-473-7421 fax

***Wilfredo Matos**
Chairperson, ASPIRA of
Connecticut, Inc.
c/o ASPIRA of Connecticut
1600 State Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605
203-336-5762
203-366-5803 fax

***Mr. Oscar Cardona**
Chairperson, ASPIRA, Inc. of
Pennsylvania
Cigna
1601 Chestnut Street
P.O. Box 7716
Philadelphia, PA 19192
215-761-1764
215-761-5550 fax

***Ms. Noemí Velázquez**
Chairperson, ASPIRA, Inc. of New
Jersey
Jersey City Public Schools
429 Ridge Street
Newark, NJ 07104
201-915-6154
201-521-1518 fax

Mr. Hector C. Carreño
At-Large Member
Carreño Miranda, Inc.
3730 Kirby
Suite 418
Houston, TX 77098
713-521-7065
713-521-7736 fax